

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Western Zones)

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SUBJECT The Resignation of Federal Press Chief
Paul Bourdin

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Note: The resignation of Paul Bourdin, Press Chief of the
Federal Republic, was reported over the radio on
26 January 1950.

1. Bourdin submitted his letter of resignation to Chancellor
Adenauer on the morning of 26 January 1950. In the letter
he called attention to the painful situations he had found
himself in during the recent flood of denials and explana-
tions issued by the Chancellory, with apparent reference
to statements made by government figures on the Saar
question and on the nationalistic speech of Justice
Minister Dehler in Hamburg. Bourdin stated in the letter
that he could not continue in office unless the Chancellor
would agree to let him be present at all conferences,
meetings, and ceremonies which might later become contro-
versial and require communiqués, explanations, or denials.
2. The strain on Bourdin during recent weeks had mounted
steadily. Time and time again, various members of the
coalition cabinet had made statements, issued memoranda,
given interviews, and leaked confidential information,
which, in his opinion, made the Press Office look
ridiculous. The Saar memorandum of the Ministry for All-
German Affairs, the Heuss speech on the Saar at Koblenz,
Adenauer's subsequent statement to the United Press on the
breaking off of trade negotiations in Paris, the Dehler
speech and Adenauer's explanations of it, and all the
communiqués, denials, explanations, and press conferences
revolving around these mix-ups had exhausted Bourdin's
patience.

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